



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS

Week Ending: September 22, 2013

Number: 29

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 22, 2013

It was a cooler than normal week for Virginia with the average temperature about 4 to 5 degrees below normal for this time of year. Most nighttime lows ranged in the low 40s to mid 50s, with at least one county reporting lows in the 30s. Scattered rain showers were welcomed as the Old Dominion began to dry out. The majority of rain fell over the weekend. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.0. The scattered rains did not slow the harvest; good progress was made on corn, tobacco, and hay. Growers were concerned about the double crop beans; more rain will still be needed for the crop to have a favorable yield. Disease pressure was also a concern for the double crop beans; growers were applying fungicides. Other farming activities for the week included planting strawberries, attending to fall calving, making plans for pasture and hayfield renovations, taking soil samples, and applying lime.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 22, 2013	3	26	68	3
September 15, 2013	3	27	68	2
September 8, 2013	0	17	78	5
September 1, 2013	1	7	79	13
August 25, 2013	0	9	74	17

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 22, 2013	2	30	66	2
September 15, 2013	2	20	74	4
September 8, 2013	0	13	84	3
September 1, 2013	0	9	79	12
August 25, 2013	0	8	80	12

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	4	7	24	55	10
Livestock	1	2	11	65	21
Hay, Other	2	8	26	55	9
Hay, Alfalfa	4	9	24	45	18
Corn	0	3	12	55	30
Soybeans	0	5	22	59	14
Peanuts	0	0	20	71	9
Cotton	2	2	9	75	12
Apples, All	0	0	4	96	0
Grapes	0	10	15	75	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dent	95	92	95	95
Corn Mature	79	75	85	83
Corn Grain Harvested	53	37	63	48
Corn Silage Harvested	80	72	83	82
Soybeans Setting Pods	96	94	99	100
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	22	9	19	29
Soybean Harvested	0	n/a	0	1
Barley Seeded	19	10	13	18
Winter Wheat Seeded	7	2	4	10
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	79	72	65	62
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	77	49	79	71
Tobacco, Dark Fired Cured Harvested	95	94	98	94
Cotton Bolls Opening	65	39	73	67
Apples, Fall Harvested	43	34	78	45
Apples, Winter harvested	25	14	43	17
Peanuts Dug	12	2	7	4
Peanuts Combined	0	n/a	0	1

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 22, 2013

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sep. 21	Mar. 1 to Sep. 21 Norm	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	73	52	77	44	62	-5	3488	3408	0.46	0.48	-2.18	34.20	1.94
Norfolk	77	59	86	55	68	-4	3972	3776	0.10	0.46	-2.41	33.72	-1.40
Richmond	78	54	84	49	66	-4	3922	3681	0.85	1.39	-1.33	40.30	7.54
Roanoke	72	54	77	48	63	-5	3554	na	1.11	1.11	-1.59	43.42	11.26
Wash/Dulles	75	48	80	40	62	-5	3494	na	1.36	1.64	-1.04	29.49	-1.55

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

Temperatures this week have ranged from the 30's to the 80's. Expected rain showers this weekend

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

A full week of dry weather with low humidity allowed some beautiful hay to be made and row crops to progress toward maturity. Corn silage harvest proceeded rapidly. A frontal system brought rain Saturday afternoon and evening; the week concluded with about 1/2 inch of rain for much of Rockbridge.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Had a light rain Saturday and into the night. Range from 1/2 to 1 inch in various areas. This was much needed - last rainfall was about 3 weeks ago. Corn harvest has been going well, yielding favorable.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

A light rain Saturday into Sat night - much needed as the ground was getting dry on top.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Fall weather is here. Cool nights in the upper forties and day time highs perhaps up to 80. Good sleeping weather. Saturday night we had a well needed rain. Started late afternoon and at my house was finished by midnight and we had 9/10 of an inch. It was needed and came down right to go into the ground. Corn harvest continues. I have not talked to many producers in the last week as they are all busy with the harvest, but those I have seen are smiling. Several producers have commented that fall calving is under way. The only problem reported is the big black horse flies which are abundant and savage this year.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Some hay being baled about the county.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Weather for harvesting corn remained ideal until rainfall on Saturday night and producers continued to make good progress on harvest. The rainfall helped to restore topsoil moisture and will benefit some of the double crop soybeans. Some cover crops were aerially seeded. Other activities included making plans for pasture and hay field renovation and planning for small grain seeding.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Dry weather has taken toll on soybeans. Double crop soybeans have lost at least 30-40% of their yield potential in the last couple of weeks, and no appreciable rain in sight. Folks are concerned about diseases in soybeans. A lot of acres were sprayed with fungicide. Recent confirmation of Soybean Rust in Virginia has folks trying to make further spray decisions as they look at very late planted soybeans in midst of dry conditions. Corn harvest continues. Yields are good to excellent for the most part, but some fields have been a disappointment due to cool and wet conditions and the loss of nitrogen to the crop. Folks are busy taking soil samples, making lime applications and doing field prep for small grain planting. Haymaking continues. Vegetable harvest is about over with exception of late squash, peppers and tomatoes.

SOUTHERN

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

Within the last week, the soybeans have really started to senesce. I am still unsure what the late double crop beans will do. Milo is heading out. Still dry. We could use some rain, but don't want too much with soybean rust now in Virginia. Pastures are drying up. Cattle still look good. Grapes have taken a beating this year from all the rain and disease and now the bears and wildlife. Still some flue in the fields, but they have really been harvesting hard.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Some flue cured tobacco fields are harvested and already the fields are being readied for small grain planting. Some corn silage has been harvested. Cooler temperatures and rain over the weekend has rearranged a few plans on harvesting, preparing, and planting crops at this time. The rain was needed

MECKLENBURG

Much of county got much needed rain, had been 6 weeks [since last rain storm] in most of the county. It rained a little late on full season beans, maybe it will be some help for double crop beans if followed up with more rain and a late frost. Tobacco harvest proceeding at furious pace, with few growers completing the harvest.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

We got .5 to .8 inches of rain over the weekend (9,21-22). Before this we were on the edge of drought. Late soybeans, peanuts, and cotton all needed the moisture to improve yields. Corn harvest over half way with good yields, (140-190 bushels).

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Dry weather has cause cotton to start cutting out, increase corn harvest and pushed peanut maturity. Late planted soybeans are suffering through this dry period but moisture now will be a big help. Flue-cured tobacco harvest is almost complete and the crop is maturing very fast. Send the rain!

VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Much needed soaking rain came over the weekend, helping some of the soybean crop push through to maturity. Strawberry planting has begun and should continue through the first week of October.